



CHEERSPORT
I R E L A N D

PHOTOGRAPHY & USE OF IMAGES POLICY

1. Introduction

Cheer Sport Ireland (CSI) recognises that photography and videography are a valued part of sport. However, images of children can be misused if not handled safely. This policy ensures that all images of children taken within CSI environments are appropriate, respectful, and compliant with safeguarding legislation.

2. Purpose

This policy provides guidance on the safe and appropriate use of photography, videography, and digital images involving children.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all CSI clubs, coaches, volunteers, staff, athletes, parents/guardians, photographers, contractors, and event personnel.

4. Guiding Principles

- The welfare and dignity of children are paramount.
- Images must never expose children to harm, embarrassment, or exploitation.
- Photography must be transparent and in line with parental consent.
- Images must be appropriate, respectful, and safe.
- Children's identities must be protected where possible.

5. Parental Consent

- Clubs must obtain written consent from parents/guardians before taking or using images of children.
- Consent forms must specify how images will be used (social media, promotional materials, competition footage, etc.).
- Parents must be informed they may withdraw consent at any time.

6. Acceptable Use of Images

- Images should focus on the activity, not the individual child.
- Children should be appropriately dressed.
- Images must present children in a positive and respectful manner.
- Group images are preferred over individual close-up images.
- Athletes must not be photographed in private areas such as changing rooms or bathrooms.

7. Prohibited or Unsafe Use of Images

- Sexualised, suggestive, or inappropriate images.
- Images showing private body areas or wardrobe malfunctions.
- Photos taken in changing rooms, restrooms, or private spaces.
- Sharing images without parental consent.

- Editing images of children in ways that distort or sexualise their appearance.
- Posting images that identify a child's location in real time.

8. Use of Professional Photographers & Videographers

- Professional photographers must be vetted or supervised depending on role.
- They must check in with the Event Welfare Team and wear accreditation.
- They may only take images in approved areas.
- They must follow all CSI safeguarding instructions.
- Photography contracts must include child safeguarding clauses.

9. Photography at CSI Events

- Event organisers must provide clear signage stating when photography/videography is in operation.
- Warm-up and backstage areas require controlled access.
- Parents must be informed if events will be livestreamed or professionally recorded.
- Spectator photography may be restricted for safeguarding reasons.

10. Use of Devices (Phones, Tablets, Cameras) by Coaches and Volunteers

- Personal devices should not be used to photograph children.
- Coaches may only use club-approved devices for training analysis.
- Images must be stored securely and deleted after use unless specifically approved.
- Devices may not be used in changing rooms under any circumstances.

11. Parents/Guardians Taking Photos

- Parents may take photos at events only where allowed by CSI.
- Photos must be for personal use only and not shared publicly without consent.
- Parents must follow all instructions regarding restricted areas and privacy.

12. Storage & Security of Images

- Images must be stored securely by clubs in password-protected systems.
- Images must be deleted when no longer required.
- Clubs must ensure that storage complies with GDPR and CSI Data Protection Policy.

13. Livestreaming & Recording

- Livestreaming must be approved in advance by CSI.
- All livestreams must avoid identifying information (e.g., names, schools).
- Streams must be monitored for inappropriate comments or misuse.
- Parents must be informed and consent obtained where applicable.

14. Responding to Concerns

- Concerns about inappropriate images must be reported immediately to the DLP.

- Incidents will be investigated under CSI Safeguarding and Disciplinary Policies.
- Serious concerns (e.g., grooming, exploitation) must be reported to Gardaí and Tusla.

15. Education & Awareness

- Clubs should educate families about online image safety.
- Children should learn about risks of sharing images on social media.
- Coaches and volunteers must receive training on safe image use.

16. Non-Compliance

- Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action.
- Unauthorised or inappropriate image use may result in suspension or removal from role.
- Clubs failing to enforce this policy may face affiliation sanctions.

17. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or following technological or legislative changes.

18. Approval

This Photography & Use of Images Policy was approved by the Board of Cheer Sport Ireland on:
11/07/2026

Signed:

FIONA COLLUMB, President/Chairperson

JOAN HEAPES, National Children's Officer